

2006 Request for Initial Proposals for Yukon River Salmon Research and Management Projects FWS # 70181-6-R001

Overview Information

Federal Agency Name: Alaska Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Funding Opportunity Title: Solicitation for year 2006 Yukon River Salmon Research and Management Fund Proposals

Announcement Type: This is the first annual request for proposals through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 15.608

Key Date: Initial Proposal deadline 11:59 p.m. Alaska time, November 23, 2005.

I. Full Text of Announcement

Funding Opportunity Description

The Service receives funds for implementation of the Yukon River Salmon Agreement reached with Canada in March 2001. The Yukon River Salmon Act of 2000 authorizes funds for implementation of the Agreement including funds for cooperative research and management projects on the Yukon River in Alaska. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers these funds through grants, purchase orders, and contracts on a competitive basis for projects/studies that advance the scientific community's understanding of and management of Chinook and chum salmon in the Yukon River in Alaska. This is a call for initial project proposals of one year in length. Successful applicants will be asked to submit full proposals.

The initial project proposals will be evaluated by the U.S. Section of the Yukon River Panel (Panel). Authors of selected initial proposals will be notified by the Service to submit full proposals for final review. The Panel reserves the right to ask questions for clarification and conduct negotiations with promising proposal authors prior to final selection. The Panel reserves the right to eliminate from consideration any proposals whose author does not provide clarification in a timely manner, if and when clarification is sought. Panel recommendations on project selections will be forwarded to the Service for consideration of funding. The Service will then develop and award the financial assistance or contractual documents funding the final proposals that meet all federal requirements and for which funding is available.

Currently the source of general funding is appropriated funds directed to USFWS. The funds shall be used for cooperative Chinook and chum salmon research and management projects in the portion of the Yukon River drainage located in the United States that are recommended by the Panel after review for scientific and technical merit.

Priorities for funding are:

- In-season stock assessment including run abundance, harvest monitoring, escapement enumeration, and collection of data on biological composition of the run, catch and escapement.
- Development of genetic baselines for the purpose of identifying Yukon River salmon stocks in mixed stock fisheries.
- Development of projects that employ youth from the Yukon River drainage wishing to pursue college degrees or careers in fisheries, or closely related fields.
- Analysis of available data pertinent to developing stock specific management strategies where needed.
- Collection of samples and data related to determination of the impacts of *Ichthyophonus* on Chinook salmon.
- Genetic stock identification of mixed stock fisheries.

The following is a list of projects that were funded under the program last year:

- Error Checking of the Yukon River salmon Age, Sex, and Length (ASL) Data.
- Genetic Stock Identification of Chinook salmon harvests on the Yukon River during 2004
- Length, Weight and Fecundity of YR Chinook salmon
- Continuing Investigations into *Ichthyophonus* Infections in Yukon River Chinook salmon
- Salcha Counting Tower for Chinook and chum salmon
- Mt. Village Fall Season Gillnet Test Fishery
- Kaltag Test Fishery
- The Yukon River Sub-district 5A Test Fish Wheel

Award information

The Service will award approximately \$300,000 in 2006. The Service encourages modest funding requests.

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Eligibility Information/Eligible Applicants

Applications are encouraged from nonprofit organizations, public and private educational organizations, federal, state, local, and tribal governments and organizations, and individuals.

Cost sharing or Matching

Cost sharing or matching is not required but encouraged.

Application and Submission Information

Address to Submit Application Package:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Attention: Ken Russell

101 12th Av., Room 110

Fairbanks, AK. 99701.

All instructions for grant proposal submittal are included in this document. Additional copies of this document may be found at <http://www.grants.gov>, and searching solicitation number **701816R001**. Hard copies of application materials can be requested from the agency contact listed in Section VII of this document.

Initial Proposal Format and Content (One page initial proposal should include):

- PROJECT TITLE
- PROJECT PROPONENT (Name, Organization, Address, Phone number, E-mail)
- PROJECT PARTNERS/ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS
- PROJECT LOCATION (sub-basin, closest community, etc.)
- PROJECT OBJECTIVES
- PROJECT SUMMARY
- ESTIMATED BUDGET

Note: Please limit proposals to one page following this format. Electronic submissions are preferred and are to be sent to: FAIR_USRM@fws.gov. Hard copies are to be submitted to the above address. It is the responsibility of the applicant to verify that their proposal has been received by the designated recipient.

Final Proposal Format and Content

Proponents invited to submit detailed proposals would be provided an outline for those proposals.

Additional Information

- Applicants should be aware that Salmon Research and Management Act funds will not be available until after the Service processes the financial paper work following the final selection.
- **SUBMISSION DATES AND TIMES:** Proposals should be submitted by email by 11:59 p.m. Alaska time November 23, 2005 to ensure expeditious and efficient review. Applicants should request an automatic email notification of delivery when they send the application. We recognize that some applicants may not have access to email and in those cases we will accept proposals by fax or mail providing they are postmarked or fax time stamped by 11:59 p.m. Alaska time November 23, 2005. Proposals submitted later than described above will not be considered except under extraordinary circumstances. It is the responsibility of the recipient to ensure Service receipt of their proposal by the deadline.
- **OTHER SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:** Note: The final proposal should be submitted as ONE file in MS Word format, not multiple files. The budget table should be incorporated into the final proposal document, NOT submitted as a separate attachment.

Schedule for 2006 R&M Proposals

Initial Proposals

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| Step 1 – October 18, 2005 | Post on Grants.gov. Advertise the call for Initial Proposals in the Anchorage, and Fairbanks newspapers. |
| Step 2 – November 23, 2005 | Deadline for 2006 Initial Proposals. |
| Step 3 - December 9, 2005 | Panel recommendations on 2006 Initial proposals. |
| Step 4 - December 14, 2005 | E-mail response to each CP applicant indicating either: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Approved” - the applicant is encouraged to submit a detailed project proposal based on the CP as submitted;• “Modified” – the applicant is encouraged to submit a detailed project proposal to incorporate the revisions requested by the Panel;• “Other” – as determined by U. S. Panel Delegation comment; or,• “Not Approved” – being of relatively low priority, or not meeting the Act’s funding criteria. |

Final Proposals

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| Step 5 – January 19, 2006 | Deadline for receipt of detailed project proposals. |
| Step 6 – March 17, 2006 | U.S. Panel Delegation will make its decisions on the detailed project proposals which will be communicated to all applicants. |

II. Application Review Information

Criteria:

The Panel sets out specific priorities for the U.S. Research and Management fund for 2006 Call for Proposals:

- (1) In-season stock assessment including run abundance, harvest monitoring, escapement-enumeration, and collection of data on the biological composition of the run, catch, and escapement. •
- (1) Development of genetic baselines for the purpose of identifying Yukon River salmon stocks in mixed stock fisheries.
- (2) Development of projects that employ youth from the Yukon River drainage wishing to pursue college degrees or careers in fisheries, or closely related fields.
- (3) Analysis of available data pertinent to developing stock specific management strategies to fulfill U.S. obligations under the U.S. – Canadian Yukon River Salmon Agreement.
- (4) Collection of samples and data related to determination of the impacts of *Ichthyophonus* on Chinook salmon.
- (5) Genetic stock identification of mixed stock fisheries.

- For these priorities, the following secondary ranking factors will be considered:

Run Abundance:

Improve stock ID composition of run. (Highest)
In-season stock specific run size estimates at the mouth of the Yukon River.
Improve in-season border passage estimates.
Improve in-season run size projection methodology.
Analysis of migratory patterns. (Lowest)

Harvest Monitoring:

In-season stock specific harvest estimates. (Highest)
Evaluate and improve stock specific harvest strategies.
Assess fishing techniques re: their impact on harvest and stock genetics (e.g., selectivity and target species).
Examine harvest trends over time in subsistence fisheries. (Lowest)

Escapement-enumeration:

Scientifically-based biological escapement goals for Canadian-origin salmon. (Highest)
Quality of escapements (i.e., age/size/sex; health).
Identify and monitor key salmon spawning streams/areas (index streams).
Inventory of salmon streams throughout the Yukon River drainage.
(Lowest)

Award Administration Information

Award Notices: Award notices will be provided to successful final proposal applicants by email, mail, or phone in March 2006. Notice of a successful proposal is not an authorization to begin performance (pre-award costs are incurred at the recipient's risk). A purchase order, contract, cooperative agreement or inter-agency agreement signed by a USFWS warranted contracting officer will constitute authorization to begin performance. Actual transfer of funds will not occur until February 2006 at the earliest.

Administrative and National Policy Requirements: All awards will include terms and conditions. These terms and conditions will be binding on the recipient and cover such areas as complying with all applicable federal regulations and reporting requirements (see following reporting section). If the Service determines that your project is to be funded via cooperative or grant agreement, prior to award, you will be asked to complete and send in an Application for Federal Assistance Packet (SF-424, SF-424A, SF-424B and DI-2010 Certifications Form). The Application for Federal Assistance Packet will not be required if the Service determines that your project is to be funded via purchase order, contract, or inter / intra-agency agreement.

Reporting: Grantees are required to submit an annual summary report to the Agency contact. For projects funded conditionally as multi-year projects, the annual summary report must report on significant deviations from original objectives, methodology, and partnerships and must outline corrective actions and report on status of partnerships and funding to qualify for next year's funding.

The Department of the Interior Policy on Financial Status Reporting applies in the event you receive funds through a cooperative or grant agreement.

<http://www.doi.gov/pam/DOIFinReport.html> and
<http://www.doi.gov/pam/FinStatusAmendMemo.html>

Agency Contact

Submit proposals and direct questions to:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ken Russell
101 12th Ave., Room 110
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Phone: 907- 455-1870
Fax: 907-456-0208
Email: FAIR_USRM@fws.gov